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SHCHARANSKY WINS FREEDOM IN BERLIN IN PRISONER TRADE

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WEST BERLIN, Feb. 11 — Anatoly B. Shcharansky, the human rights activist and campaigner for the right of Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union, was freed here today after eight years in a Soviet labor camp.

Wearing a fur hat, an oversize black overcoat and baggy trousers, Mr. Shcharansky, 38 years old, walked across a snow-covered stretch of bridge and threaded his way past two parked United States vans to freedom. Within hours, he had been reunited with the wife, whom he had not seen since 1974, and flown to a hero's welcome in Israel.

A Result of Summit Meeting

His release was the high point of an elaborately synchronized East-West prisoner exchange that appeared to be one of the most concrete, and dramatic, results of the meeting in November between President Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader. The exchange had been secretly negotiated in the last months between officials in Washington, Bonn and East Berlin.

Mr. Shcharansky was released along with three men accused of being North Atlantic Treaty Organization spies. In exchange, five people from Warsaw Pact countries were handed back on the Glienicke Bridge, which separates the outskirts of West Berlin from the East German town of Potsdam.

Although American officials and others confirmed last week that the exchange was set to take place today, Mr. Shcharansky learned only Monday that he would be freed from a labor camp.

Was Accused of Being a Spy

Mr. Shcharansky was sentenced in 1978 to 13 years in prison and labor camps for treason, espionage and anti-Soviet agitation. The Soviet authorities said he had been spying for the United States; he and the United States have denied it.

Mr. Shcharansky was greeted on the West Berlin side of the bridge at 11:01 A.M. by the United States Ambassador to West Germany, Richard R. Burt.

According to an American diplomat who overheard him, Mr. Burt welcomed an ebullient Mr. Shcharansky "to the free world" on behalf of President Reagan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany.

"President Reagan and others worked and prayed for many years for this," Mr. Burt was said to have told Mr. Shcharansky.

Mr. Shcharansky, who repeatedly expressed his thanks at being freed,

was whisked through West Berlin in a convoy and, after a short flight to Frankfurt, was reunited with his wife, Avital.

Fearing that Soviet and East German officials might oblige Mr. Shcharansky to cross the bridge together with the three men accused of being NATO agents, and thus visually buttress the Soviet case that Mr. Shcharansky was a Central Intelligence Agency spy, United States diplomats had decided to block the view for photographers by parking two vans perpendicular to the bridge.

But to the Americans' surprise, Wolfgang Vogel, an East German lawyer who negotiated the exchange for the Warsaw Pact, agreed to have Mr. Shcharansky taken first and alone in the lawyer's gold Mercedes-Benz from the Potsdam side to the middle of the bridge. The lawyer's wife, Helga, drove.

Earlier in the morning, Mr. Vogel had confirmed the identities of the five people being handed over by the West after they had arrived at Tempelhof airport from Frankfurt. Two of them the Czechoslovak-born Karl Koecher and his wife, Hana — renounced their American citizenship only Monday at the United States Consulate in Frankfurt, officials said.

The Others in Exchange

In addition to Mr. Koecher, who was arrested in 1984 in the United States on charges of passing C.I.A. secrets to Czechoslovakia, and his wife, West Germany surrendered Yevgeny Zemlyakov, a member of the Soviet trade mission in Cologne, jailed in 1985 on charges of stealing high-technology secrets; Jerzy Kaczmarek, a Polish intelligence officer who had infiltrated a refugee resettlement office in Bremen, and Detlef Scharfenoth, an East German agent jailed on espionage charges last year.

United States officials said the three men freed with Mr. Shcharansky were Wolf-Georg Frohn, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in East Germany in 1981 for spying for the C.I.A.; Dietrich Nistroy, sentenced to life in East Germany for spying for West German intelligence, and Jaroslav Javorsky, a Czechoslovak-born West German citizen who was arrested on returning to Czechoslovakia.

On the Potsdam side of the bridge, the United States Ambassador to East Germany, Francis J. Meehan, confirmed the identities of Mr. Shcharansky and his three companions, formally asking them whether they were of sound mind and willing to be transferred to the West. Crowded into in a small yellow van, they assented, officials said.

The solitary appearance of Mr. Shcharansky enabled Ambassador Burt and Ludwig Rehlinger, a West German official, to spirit the dissident away in a Mercedes limousine while the rest of the exchange continued, with Mrs. Vogel shuttling prisoners up and down the bridge. A van carrying suitcases, television sets and other appliances also had to be unloaded.

'Just Ticked'

Mr. Shcharansky was described by those who spoke with him as overjoyed and excited and, as one American put it, "just tickled, in a bubbly mood."

Although he had recently been exceptionally well fed in a labor camp, he was said to have interpreted this treatment as hinting at a relative's visit, not his freedom. He was flown to East Berlin on Monday.

After the exchange, he was taken today to Tempelhof Airport, where frozen brake linings on a United States Air Force C-140 Jet Star exploded the tires as it was taxiing down the runway. Mr. Shcharansky, Mr. Burt and Mr. Rehlinger switched to a standby Lear Jet for their flight to the Rhein-Main Air Base outside Frankfurt.

After landing there at 1:15 P.M., Mr. Shcharansky was driven across the runway for the reunion at a Frankfurt airport lounge with his wife, Avital, who had not seen him since emigrating from the Soviet Union the day after their wedding. She had arrived from Israel at 11:30 A.M. on a twin-engine Israeli Westwind jet bearing a doctor, who found Mr. Shcharansky fit and well enough to fly.

Mr. Shcharansky warmly threw his arms around Yitzhak Ben-Ari, the Israeli Ambassador to West Germany, when introduced to him in the lounge. In a telephone conversation, Mr. Ben-Ari later said he had brought a blank Israeli passport with him and "filled it out on the spot, since I hadn't known how tall he was and so on."

"I must say that I was full of optimism about humankind seeing this little man so full of joy, happiness, spirit and enthusiasm — and not broken," Mr. Ben-Ari said. "He was very happy to travel to Israel as a citizen and not as a tourist."

The Israelis also gave Mr. Shcharansky a new pair of pants to replace the baggy ones — "stuck together with pins," Mr. Ben-Ari said.

From the lounge, the Shcharanskys were taken to the Israeli jet, as a Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing 727 taxied by. Security was light. The Westwind jet took off for Israel at 2:33 P.M.